

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2208

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CE

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION: NARCOTICS

REF: STATE 12151; COLOMBO 07; COLOMBO A-19, JAN 16
1975.

1. SECTION A. AS REPORTED COLOMBO 07, SRI LANKA
RECEIVED NO BILATERAL ASSISTANCE JULY 1 - DEC 31,
1974.

2. SECTION B, SUMMARY. EMBASSY'S OVER-ALL
ASSESSMENT OF ILLICIT DRUG SITUATION IN SRI LANKA
WAS TRANSMITTED IN COLOMBO A-19.

3. ABUSE. EMBASSY AND GSL NARCOTICS POLICE
OFFICIALS HAVE OBSERVED NO REAL CHANGE IN DRUG
ABUSE PATTERNS.

4. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. POLICE GIVE ROUGH
ESTIMATE THAT 2,000 ACRES ARE USED IN PRODUCTION
OF GANJA AND THAT APPROX 3,000 INDIVIDUALS
ARE ENGAGED IN THIS ILLEGAL CULTIVATION. OPIUM
IS NOT BELIEVED TO BE GROWN OR PROCESSED INTO
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MORPHINE BASE OR HEROIN IN SRI LANKA.

5. TRAFFICKING TRENDS. POLICE AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO ESTIMATE THAT 10,000 TO 15,000 LBS OF OPIUM ENTER SRI LANKA EACH YEAR (HIGHER ESTIMATES, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN MADE ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT OCCASIONS) AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AN UNKNOWN PERCENTAGE IS TRANSSHIPPED TO OTHER POINTS (INCLUDING SINGAPORE). DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE R. SUNDERALINGAM RECENTLY STATED THAT PRICE OF PURE OPIUM HAD RISEN TO 2500 TO 2750 RUPEES PER POUND (AS OPPOSED TO 2240 TO 2400 RUPEES PER POUND AS RECENTLY AS MID-NOVEMBER 1974), WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES MAINLY TO INDIAN GOVERNMENTS RECENT SHARP CRACKDOWN ON SMUGGLING IN GENERAL.

6. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. SEE COLLOMBO A-19.

7. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. SEE COLOMBO A-BM

8. ENFORCEMENT. POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU STATES THAT 125 NARCOTICS DETECTIONS WERE MADE DURING PERIOD JULY 1 TO DEC 31, 1974, AND THAT 123 LBS (55.9 KB) OF OPIUM AND 1,148 LBS (521.8 KG) OF CANNABIS SATIVA "L" WERE SEIZED. INDIVIDUAL OPIUM ADDICTS/USERS, MOST OF WHOM RESIDE IN AND AROUND COLOMBO, ARE NOT BEING ARRESTED. POLICE ARE PRESSING FOR HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS -- MOST SEIZURES NOW RESULT IN CONFISCATION OF DRUG AND FINES. TWO POLICE DOGS WERE TRAINED DURING JULY 1 - DEC 31 PERIOD TO DETECT OPIUM AND/OR GANJA, AND ONE OF DOGS PROVED INSTRUMENTAL IN EFFECTING LARGEST SINGLE SEIZURE (172 LBS VALUED AT 10,300 RUPEES) OF GANJA IN DECEMBER 1974 IN WATTALA.

9. INCOME SUBSTITUTION: THERE IS NO PROGRAM OF INCOME SUBSTITUTION FOR GANJA-PRODUCING REGION IN SOUTHEASTERN SRI LANKA.

10. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDCUATION. METHADONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TREATMENT FOR OPIUM ADDICTS, WHICH BEGAN IN MID-JUNE 1974, WAS DISCONTINUED IN LATE NOVEMBER BECAUSE OF DEPLETION OF ENTIRE GSL SUPPLY OF THE DRUG. ABOUT 50 FORMER ADDICTS, WITH POLICE SUPPORT, FORMED A "FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION" ON SEPT 22, 1974. MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION HAVE ASSISTED POLICE IN PUBLIC FORUMS (SUCH AS WELL-ATTENDED KOLLUPITIYA JAYCEES SEMINAR ON NARCOTIC DRUG ABUSE IN SRI LANKA

ON NOV 15, 1974).

1. PROPOSALS FOF FY-1976. US NARCOTICS-RELATED
INTERESTS IN SRI LANKA AND PROPOSALS FOR NEAR FUTURE
WERE SUMMARIZED IN COLOMBO A-19.
VAN HOLLEN

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